GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1481
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
CLEANING OF RIVERS
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the rivers in the country, which have become polluted;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to clean all the polluted rivers during the Eleventh Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked for the purpose;

(d) Whether any foreign financial assistance is being provided in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard

Answer

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to (c) According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, a total of 71 polluted stretches of rivers have been identified across the country. The details of these stretches , State-wise are given in Annexure. The first river Action plan i.e. the Ganga Action plan was taken up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in 1985. its scope was increased to cover all the major rivers of the country in stages and the programme was renamed as National River Conservation Plan NRCP) in 1995. At present the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of NRCP covers 164 towns along the identified polluted stretches of 35 major rivers spread over 20 States in the country at an approved cost of Rs. 4863.75 crore The major rivers covered under the Plan include Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar & Mahananda besides the rivers Satluj, Krishna, Cauveri and Godavari.

The pollution abatement works undertaken NRCP include interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, electric/ improved wood crematoria, River Front Development etc.

The XI Plan allocation for NRCP is Rs. 2100 crore. Urban Water Supply and Sanitation is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/ Urban local Bodies (ULBs) to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain water supply and sanitation projects including domestic wastewater treatment schemes with State Plan funds. The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government in creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal etc. by providing one time grant for capital works in identified polluted stretches. There are also other Central Plans presently in operation under the Union Ministry of Urban Development, namely, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), for supplementing the efforts of the State Government & ULBs for providing Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as per guidelines of the schemes. Sewerage & sewage treatment (i.e. domestic wastewater treatment) Schemes are among the admissible components of these programmes.

(d)& (e) The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) phase-II has been started in December, 2004 in the three States of U.P. Delhi & Haryana with financial assistance of Yen 13.33 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The project has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore for implementation in 6 towns of Haryana, 8 towns of U.P. and in Delhi. So far 25 pollution abatement schemes have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 333.66 crores, out of which 3 schemes have been completed.